

First Christian Visitor

“Where the Grace of God Awaits You.”

www.fcc-bhm.org

VOLUME 2 NUMBER 06 FEBRUARY 9, 2010



BEING WELL

Congregational Health, Vitality and You February 12-13

Come this Friday evening at 7:30 and worship Almighty God with Dr. Bill Lee sharing a message of hope. The nursery will be open.

Come Saturday for seven fantastic workshops focused on health and spiritual wholeness. Dr. Toni Craven, an Old Testament Biblical Scholar from Bright Divinity School will be our keynote speaker. Lunch will be provided by our youth group. The workshops are from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm. The nursery will be open. *The entire weekend is free!*

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17th at 6:30 pm

Lent begins Wednesday, Feb. 17th. Lent is the season we reflect on the suffering and passion of our Lord. A season to consider ways that we can suffer for our Lord and carry our own personal cross for His Glory. We will gather in the sanctuary on Wednesday, Feb. 17th at 6:30 pm. The service will have special music, a drama meditation, “A Dialogue Between Jesus and a Disciple”, and walking forward to receive the Mark of the Cross on our foreheads. Invite a friend to this service and all out Lenten services as we proclaim Jesus as Lord and Savior. The nursery will be open for children.

SERMON SERVICE FOR LENT

Edd and Mary Pat will share a series of sermons during Lent on some of the miracles of Jesus. These miracles transform lives from darkness and suffering to light and wholeness. This theme of darkness to light is the symbolic meaning of Lent and Easter. The miracle sermons for Lent are:

Sunday, Feb. 21	Stilling of the Storm
Sunday, Feb. 28	Healing of a Leper
Sunday, March 7	A Woman With a Issue of Blood
Sunday, March 14	Healing of Blind Bartimaeous
Sunday, March 21	Raising of Lazarus

YOUNG AT HEART

We have a trip planned for February 23rd. We will travel in the bus to Dale's Southern Restaurant in Hoover for a Dutch treat and then head downtown to the Civil Rights Museum. This will be a treat for all of us. Sign up as soon as you can for this fun trip. We will leave the church at 11:00 am Tuesday, February 23rd. See you, Janet

SUNDAY'S ATTENDANCE

SUNDAY SCHOOL	59
WORSHIP	138

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LENTEN SUPPERS AND WORSHIP

Every Wednesday night during Lent we will have the opportunity to gather in the Family Life Center at 5:45 pm for supper. The cost will be: Adults-\$5.00, children under 10- \$3.00, and children 3 and under are free. Following the meal at 6:30 pm, we will have a thirty-minute Lenten Worship Service in the Farkas Room. The service will focus on the passion of Jesus through the senses of sight, sound, smell, touch, and taste. The schedule for each worship service is as follows:

Wednesday, Feb. 29: Seeing – “Watching the Walk to Calvary”

Wednesday, March 3: Hearing – “Sounds Heard On the way to the Cross”

Wednesday, March 10: Smells – “Smelling the Approach of Death”

Wednesday, March 17: Touch - “The Feel of the Cross”

Wednesday, March 24: Taste – “Jesus Tastes The Approach of Death”

Reservations for the meal can be made using the envelope in back of the pews. If you can't come for the meal, please attend the Lenten Worship Service at 6:30 pm. Childcare will be provided for both the meal and the worship service.

LOOKING AHEAD TO LENT

Lent is the season of forty days which begins on Ash Wednesday in preparation for celebrating Easter on Sunday, April 4. The following is a schedule of our worship service for Lent:

Wednesday, Feb. 17 – Ash Wednesday Worship
At 6:30 pm

Sunday, Feb. 21 – First Sunday of Lent with the Choir extinguishing Lent candles during all Sundays of Lent

Wednesday, Feb. 24 and March 3, 10, 17, 24
Lenten Dinners at 5:45 followed by Lenten Worship at 6:30 pm

Palm Sunday, March 28 – Easter Songs of the Palms and Easter Special Offering

Thursday, April 1 – Maundy Thursday – Holy Communion at 7:00 pm

Thursday, April 1 – Friday, April 2 from 9:00 pm-9:00 pm our 24-Hour Prayer Vigil

Sunday, April 4 – Easter Sunrise Service at Hargis at 6:30 am and Easter Morning Worship at 10:00 am with Holy Baptism.

CHRISTIAN COMRADES SUNDAY LESSON

Sunday, February 14th

“Declared by Peter”

Matthew 16: 13-27

First Christian Church
4954 Valleydale Road
Birmingham, Al. 35242

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Life In Our Community This Week

Sunday, February 14

9:00 Sunday School
10:00 Worship Service
10:15 Worship & Wonder
5:30 Children & Youth
6:45 Snack Supper

Monday, February 15

7:00 Men's Bible Study
10:00 Staff Meeting
6:30 Education & Worship Meeting

Tuesday, February 16

9:45 Chapel
7:00 Elder Calls

Wednesday, February 17

9:45 Chapel
6:30 Ash Wednesday Worship
7:00 Choir Rehearsal

Friday, February 19

7:00 Scrabble with Joye Taylor

GRACE NOTES

- ✠ Please pray for Nancy Hubner, who is in St. Vincent's hospital with pneumonia.
- ✠ Congratulations to David Brasher who is now a grandfather twice. Oldest son Jason and wife had granddaughter Kaylee Marie Brasher on Jan. 10th. In Nov. youngest son Jonathan and wife had grandson Luke David Brasher.
- ✠ Please help our new members and visitors to wear their name tags!

2010 CROP WALK

Sunday, April 18th

Hey, everybody. The 2010 CROP Walk is coming up. In case you need reminding, CROP stands for Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty. Each year, we hold a 5-K walk to raise money and awareness for poverty relief. While the money we raised last year was a bit down because of the economy, in the previous year, we raised about \$20,000. This year, we are shooting for \$30,000. Once again, Greater Birmingham Ministries will receive 25% of our proceeds, with the rest going to international relief. The more money we raise, the more good we can do. So we hope you will plan to join us and get some new people involved as well.

The walk this year is on Sunday, April 18 at 2:30. We hope each of you will consider joining us so we can make this the best Birmingham CROP Walk yet.

Let's make this a great CROP Walk on behalf of those in need this year. Plan to join us for the Walk on April 18.

Dear First Christian Church –

Thank you for the great day Sunday, January 31st. I could feel all the love you were giving me. I want to thank you for letting me take care of all the big and little ones. I was so touched by all that was done and the love that I was showed. Now I will be able to go and sit in church with all my friends. Thank you again. *Love, Mary Decker*

What is a Sabbatical?

The word sabbatical has its roots in the biblical concept of Sabbath (“to rest” or “to cease”). Sabbath keeping is setting aside time that God consecrates and makes holy.

Sabbatical leave is a time for our pastors to shift gears in order to rest, disengage, study, reflect, and travel in order to return to minister among us refreshed and renewed in body, mind, and spirit. (It is not a time for routine work, mid-career assessment, job search, retirement planning, or terminal leave).

Our Pastors Edd, Mary Pat and Jan's letter of agreement with First Christian Church specifies that they have available sabbatical leave after five years of continuous service at First Christian Church. The year 2009 marks that time.

Sabbatical is more than a vacation from meetings, budgets, sermons, and people in need. It is a time for our Pastors to receive spiritual nourishment and a change in perspective, to deepen their relationship with God, themselves, and their family--a season of spiritual growth. This special time will also be a season of growth for the entire congregation as we intentionally engage in a time of prayerful discernment for our future together in mission and ministry.

Steve Pasky,
Chair, Personnel Committee

CHOIR CANTATA REHEARSALS

Well, it's that time of year again! The choir is starting to rehearse for our Palm Sunday cantata. If you would like to sing with us this Easter please join us Wednesday evenings starting at 7:30 pm. This year is our 11th Easter cantata and we have decided to emphasize Palm Sunday. We will be singing the Palm Sunday selections from the nine cantatas preceding last year's ending with a new piece depicting Christ's journey through Holy week. We are excited about our Easter music this year and would love to invite anyone who enjoys singing to join us in this endeavor. Blessings, Jan

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